

(School letter-headed letter with normal details)

November/December

Dear Parent/Guardian

Flu immunisation for children and young people in Special Schools

As a parent/guardian of a child or young person with learning disabilities you will only be too aware of the impact that flu and other respiratory illness can have on your son/daughter throughout the winter months.

All children and young people with learning disabilities can be offered a nasal flu vaccination. Vaccination is available from your GP practice.

The nasal spray flu vaccination is very quick and any side effects are generally mild. Children who had it last year were asked what they thought of it – and the answer was usually ‘tickly’!

The vaccination programme is designed to protect your child against flu which is an unpleasant illness that, although rarely, can cause serious complications. Also by having the flu vaccination, children are less likely to pass the virus on to friends and family, some of whom may be at greater risk from flu if they are, say, an infant, older person or someone with an underlying health condition.

All parents of children with learning disabilities are strongly encouraged to obtain flu vaccination for their child or young person. This is the best way to protect them against flu this winter. Here is the link to the national NHS information about flu <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

The vaccine is available now so please contact your GP surgery to make arrangements for your son or daughter to be immunised.

Yours sincerely,

To be taken to the GP practice:

- My son/daughter has a learning disability
- They are in a clinical risk group for flu.
- Unless there is a specific contraindication, please will you arrange for them to have flu immunisation?

Name of child/young person: